

courtesy to listen to the message. Many of the pronounced corporation senators were in their seats, and, as the reading progressed, cracked jokes or sneered audibly at the expression of Mr. Roosevelt.

"It may be said, moderately, that the president's message had no effect upon the men that control the senate. Several of them regarded it with contempt and a few of them insisted that the president was beginning his campaign for another term. It was clear to old observers of the senate that the message had no special effect and would not accomplish any practical result.

"Senator Kean of New Jersey snickered audibly at the announcement that the Standard Oil trust had profited to the extent of three-quarters of a million a year from unlawful and unfair railroad rebates.

"When the clerk read that much of these rebates had been done away with, Mr. Kean grinned back to Mr. Aldrich and made a laughing comment to Mr. Dryden, his colleague.

"The reference to pooling provoked a hearty laugh from Mr. Aldrich, but when the recommendation for prompt action on the free alcohol bill was read there was a great explosion of mirth. Mr. Kean threw back his head in sheer enjoyment, and Mr. Aldrich grew red with laughter. Messrs. Foraker, Lodge, Burrows, Scott and Wetmore joined in the chorus.

"Whatever apprehension was felt at the outset regarding the teeth in the message was quickly dispelled, and at the conclusion of the reading of the document the senate was in rare good humor.

"Senator Foraker moved that the message be printed and laid on the table, the parliamentary method of shelving a measure. Noticing that only a part of the Garfield report had been submitted, Senator Culberson of Texas hastily wrote with a pencil a resolution calling for the full document. This resolution was adopted."

#### WHAT "INFLUENCE" DID IN THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESS

At the close of the fifty-ninth congress in June, 1906, President Roosevelt gave, to the Associated Press, the following tribute to the work of that session:

"In the session that has just closed, the congress has done more substantial work for good than any congress has done at any session since I became familiar with public affairs. The legislation has been along the lines of real constructive statesmanship of the most practical and efficient type, and bill after bill has been enacted into law which was of importance so great that it is fair to say that the enactment of any one of them alone would have made the session memorable; such, for instance, as the railroad bill, the pure food bill, the bill for free alcohol, the consular reform bill, Panama canal legislation, the joint statehood bill and the naturalization bill. I certainly have no disposition to blink at what there is of evil in our social, industrial or political life of today, but it seems to me that the men of genuine patriotism who genuinely wish well to their country have a right to feel profound satisfaction in the course of this congress. I would not be afraid to compare its record with that of any previous congress in our history, not alone for the wisdom, but for the disinterested high-mindedness which has controlled its action. It is noteworthy that not a single measure which the closest scrutiny could warrant us in calling of doubtful propriety has been enacted and, on the other hand, no influence of any kind has availed to prevent the enactment of the laws most vitally necessary to the nation at this time."

The New York Press did not agree with the president on this point. It is said that "nearly everything congress has done was the result of the pressure brought upon it by the executive. Then this republican paper gave this description of the work of that republican congress:

"Some will not be willing to go so far in commendation of the congress' record as the large-hearted executive has gone. We can agree with him that, so far as is known up to date, 'not a single measure which the closest scrutiny would warrant us in calling of doubtful propriety has been enacted.' There have been too many watchmen on guard, both in congress and the White House and elsewhere, and public vigilance was never so wide awake. Rascality has contented itself, for the most part, with trying to weaken, as far as could be, the measures meant to improve the public welfare. It is what has been done along this latter line that prevents us from agreeing with Mr. Roosevelt in his opinion (for it can not be a statement of fact) that 'no influence of any kind has availed to prevent the enactment of the laws most vitally necessary to the nation at this time.'

"The country happens to have knowledge of facts against which Mr. Roosevelt's opinion can not stand. Influence did avail to insert the Allison amendment in the Hepburn act, which the president has now signed—Standard Oil and railroad influence, which overthrew Mr. Roosevelt's original plan for limited court review of the acts of the interstate commerce commission. Influence did prevent congress from providing for a valuation of the railroads,

so as to determine what are reasonable rates for transportation. Influence did avail to prevent railroads from changing classification, to end long and short haul discriminations, and to compel the companies to adopt mechanical devices which would save thousands of lives sacrificed every year to railroad short-sightedness and cupidity. Influence did avail to prevent abolition of the vicious pass system, and in short it availed to continue nearly all the abuses and extortions practiced by the syndicated railroads.

"Also there was beef trust influence in the shaping of the meat inspection bill, and it did avail to the extent desired by the beef trust and its representatives, Wadsworth and Lorimer. Influence undoubtedly availed the shortweight food manufacturers, who had their way in the Sherman amendment to the pure food bill. Thus, while there was no mileage grab at this session, and the worst positive performance of congress was the public buildings graft, it is not necessary to give congress a general indorsement because it has done only some things public opinion and presidential pressure have compelled it to do. In by far the most important matter of the session—of twenty sessions—the rate bill, congress has fallen far short of the public wishes, though it has gone further than was hoped.

"Mr. Roosevelt, we think, does not overstate the case when he says congress has done more for the public good than in many years. But to say this is not to say that congress has come anywhere near doing what the people wanted done and what congress, in doing its duty, would have done. It must be remembered that for years congress has done nothing whatever to stop railroad extortion, and for nearly a decade has encouraged the corrupt alliance between railroads and trusts for the robbery of the people. From doing nothing, or helping the enemies of the people, to doing anything whatever for the people, is, indeed, making progress; yet hardly enough to warrant a sweeping indorsement of congress and silence as to its crimes of omission.

"There is more difference between what congress has done and what the people wanted it to do than there is between what congress has done and what it had hitherto not done. And no cause is served, save the unworthy cause of political expediency, by emphasizing the things congress has done and remaining silent about the larger things congress has failed to do. Glowing words of praise for house and senate may help in the approaching campaign, and are, of course, calculated for their effect on the election. They will not help to bring about the right settlement of the questions which a corrupt house and senate have refused to settle right, and which they have not—most certainly have not, if Mr. Roosevelt will pardon us—considered with 'disinterested high-mindedness.'

"Nor will these questions be settled right until the men who have had the largest share in postponing their adjustment are driven from public life."

#### SERIOUS POLITICAL PROBLEMS—QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO SOLVE—NATIONAL ISSUES

Shall we tax large incomes in America, as is done by the progressive republics of Switzerland and France, also in Germany and England?

The democratic platform says yes.

#### THE REPUBLICAN PLATFORM SILENT

Shall we elect United States senators by a direct vote, thus making it difficult, if not impossible, for millionaires to control the nation through the upper house?

The democratic platform says yes.

#### THE REPUBLICAN PLATFORM SILENT

Shall we take the duty off trust controlled articles with arbitrary prices fixed upon the customer without regard to laws of supply and demand, all competition having thus been throttled?

The democratic platform says yes.

#### THE REPUBLICAN PLATFORM SILENT

Shall a reasonable tax be paid by banks to create a guarantee fund to protect depositors, thus preventing runs on banks and money panics and thereby bringing into circulation hoarded wealth?

The democratic platform says yes.

#### THE REPUBLICAN PLATFORM SILENT

The scandalous and dangerous corruption of the electorate by the use of enormous campaign funds points to the decay of a free government. Shall we know before election, through publicity, from whence and from whom came these great contributions?

The democratic platform says yes.

#### THE REPUBLICAN PLATFORM SILENT

Shall we have billion dollar sessions of congress and a vast army of officeholders dictating presidential nominations?

The democratic platform condemns.

Republican platform necessarily silent.